62nd Legislature

1	HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 29
2	INTRODUCED BY T. FUREY
3	
4	A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
5	MONTANA REQUESTING THAT AN APPROPRIATE INTERIM COMMITTEE STUDY THE STATE'S SYSTEM
6	OF REGULATING AND PROMOTING FOOD PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING AND THE WAYS IN WHICH
7	THE STATE'S SYSTEM OF REGULATION INTERACTS AND INTEGRATES WITH FEDERAL LAW AND
8	COUNTY REGULATION.
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10	WHEREAS, the Department of Livestock, Department of Public Health and Human Services, and
11	Department of Agriculture have roles in regulating and promoting food production and food processing; and
12	WHEREAS, the federal government has passed sweeping laws regulating food production and
13	processing with which the state's system of regulation interacts and with which the state's system must be
14	integrated to work effectively and efficiently; and
15	WHEREAS, county health departments play a vital role in the enforcement of the various state and
16	federal regulations, in addition to enforcing county and city ordinances; and
17	WHEREAS, the current system of food regulation is complicated and is difficult for food businesses,
18	growers, and consumers to understand and comply with; and
19	WHEREAS, creating a system that is easier to understand benefits all food producers, food processors,
20	and the consumers of Montana.
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22	NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
23	STATE OF MONTANA:
24	That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee, pursuant to
25	section 5-5-217, MCA, to study the state food regulation system and the ways in which the system interacts and
26	integrates with federal law and county regulation and enforcement.
27	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study:
28	(1) examine the laws under which and the procedures by which the Department of Livestock, Department
29	of Public Health and Human Services, Department of Agriculture, federal authorities, and county health
30	departments regulate food production and food processing;

Legislative Services Division (2) consider the role of county health departments in regulating and promoting food production and food
 processing and whether that is the role that food production and processing stakeholders and policymakers
 desire;

4 (3) determine if new laws are needed or if existing laws need to be amended or repealed to make 5 Montana's system of regulating food production and processing operate consistently, efficiently, effectively, and 6 in conjunction with federal laws and regulations, thereby minimizing complications and confusion; and

(4) design a Montana system of food production and processing regulation that allows the state's food
producers and processors to market Montana commodities and processed foods easily and efficiently as well as
locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study committee invite participation in the study by representatives of the Department of Livestock, Department of Public Health and Human Services, Department of Agriculture, federal authorities, county health departments, school districts, food producers and processors, and the public.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final results of the study, including any findings, conclusions, comments, or recommendations of the appropriate committee, be concluded prior to September 15, 2012, and reported to the 63rd Legislature.

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